



U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

<http://judiciary.house.gov/>

News Advisory

For immediate release
May 16, 2005

Contact: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn
202-225-2492

Subcommittee Oversight Hearings Tuesday on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in China and Russia

What: Oversight Hearing on “Intellectual Property Theft in China” followed by an Oversight Hearing on “Intellectual Property Theft in Russia.”
Who: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property - Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), Chairman
When: 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, 2005
Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

In its annual report released in April 2005, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced the decision to elevate China to the Priority Watch List “for failure to effectively protect intellectual property rights (IPR) and to meet its commitment to significantly reduce infringement level.” The USTR report also cites the insufficient priority and urgency devoted to weak IPR enforcement and continuing IPR violations within the Russian Federation.

PROBLEMS...

- ✓ Intellectual property theft has grown exponentially in recent years. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce believes counterfeit goods could be responsible for the loss of 750,000 American jobs each year. The FBI estimates counterfeiting costs to U.S. businesses at \$200-\$250 billion a year.
- ✓ Some analysts believe the counterfeiting trade will more than double before the end of the decade as China increases its presence in global markets.

THESE TWO HEARINGS WILL...

- ⇒ Focus on the current state of legal and enforcement policies relating to the protection of IPR in China, IP enforcement policies within the Russian Federation, and evidence of a substantial number of illicit optical disk plants operating on government-owned land.

“CHINA HEARING” WITNESSES: Ms. Victoria Espinel, Acting Assistant USTR for Intellectual Property, Office of USTR; Mr. Ted C. Fishman, Author & Journalist, *China, Inc.*; Mr. Myron Brilliant, V.P., East Asia, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Eric H. Smith, President, International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA).

“RUSSIA HEARING” WITNESSES: Ms. Victoria Espinel, Acting Assistant USTR for Intellectual Property, Office of USTR; Mr. Eric Schwartz, V.P. & Special Counsel, IIPA; Ms. Bonnie J.K. Richardson, Sr. V.P., International Policy, Motion Picture Association of America; and Mr. Matt Gerson, Sr. V.P. Public Policy and Government Relations, Universal Music Group.

####